

## President Tsai celebrates Central American Independence Day

President Tsai Ing-wen said Sept. 15 that Taiwan will continue working with its Central American allies and like-minded partners to bolster exchanges across the board, spotlighting the country's long-standing friendship with the region.

Taiwan and its allies are bonded together through a commitment to freedom and democracy, Tsai said. After working hard for years to secure its own democratic way of life, Taiwan understands the difficulties many Central American countries overcame, making their accomplishments all the more valuable, she added.

The government and people are grateful for the continued support of Taiwan's Central American allies, Tsai said, such



as their endorsement of the country's participation in international organizations.

Tsai made the remarks during a reception to celebrate the 199th anniversary of Central American independence in Taipei City. Others in attendance included Honduras Ambassador Eny Yamileth Bautista Guevara, Guatemala Ambassador Willy Alberto Gomez Tirado and Charge d'Affaires Mirna Rivera of the Embassy of Nicaragua.

According to Tsai, distance has

proven no barrier in building friendship between Taiwan and its allies, with even the COVID-19 pandemic unable to halt bilateral exchanges. This is evidenced by the imminent arrival of the latest Taiwan Scholarship recipients in the country, she said.

The pandemic has also demonstrated the value of true friends, Tsai said, with Taiwan and its allies working together to exchange materials for combating coronavirus.

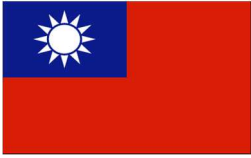
Through thick and thin, Taiwan will always be there for its allies, Tsai said. Now is the time to further expand cooperation alongside the international community in defense of freedom and democracy, she added.



## September Snapshots of Taiwan



**Left**, President Tsai Ing-wen (left), former Vice President Chen Chien-jen (center) and Digital Minister Audrey Tang are featured in *Wired25: People Who Are Making Things Better* published Sept. 9 by Wired magazine. (Courtesy of Wired); **Middle**, Jaushieh Joseph Wu (left), minister of foreign affairs, and Mohammed Omar Hagi Mohamoud, head of The Republic of Somaliland Representative Office in Taiwan, bump elbows during SROT's historic opening Sept. 9 in Taipei City. (MOFA); **Right**, Tien Chung-kwang (front, fourth left), deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is all smiles alongside foreign diplomats stationed in Taiwan and their dependents during the closing ceremony of the Mandarin Studies Program organized by MOFA's Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs Sept. 14 in Taipei City. (Staff photo/Chin Hung-hao)



## MOFA Minister Wu delivers powerful address at GTI Annual Symposium



The government and people of Taiwan are committed to defending the country's free and democratic way of life against Chi-

nese expansionism, Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said Sept. 15.

Democracies around the world must cooperate and continue to defend shared values while sowing the seeds for the ultimate triumph of freedom, Wu said. If democracy is to win, Taiwan must prevail, he added.

Wu made the remarks during a virtual address at the Global Taiwan Institute Annual Symposium on Taiwan-U.S. relations in Washington. Other speakers at the two-day event were Hsiao Bi-khim, head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S.; Mike Gallagher, member of the U.S. House of Representatives; David Helvey, acting assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs at the U.S. Department of Defense; and Brent Christensen, director of the American Institute in Taiwan.

According to Wu, 2020 has been a diffi-

cult year due to coronavirus—first reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan late last year—and its tremendous impact on the global economy. Taiwan weathered the pandemic in good shape due to its rapid deployment of the Central Epidemic Command Center, stringent border controls and quarantine procedures, transparent information sharing and stockpiles of medical supplies, he said.

Taiwan's example clearly demonstrates that a free and democratic society can be more effective at crisis management than an authoritarian regime, Wu said. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo publicly stated that Taiwan's "openness and generosity in the global battle against COVID-19 is a model for the world," he added.

Wu said Taiwan enjoys high-level support from the U.S., citing the historic visit last month by Alex Azar, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; declassification of diplomatic cables regarding arms sales to Taiwan and the Six Assurances; and the signing into law of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019.

Another area in which Taiwan is benefiting from U.S. backing is economic exchanges, Wu said. Last month's announcement by President Tsai Ing-wen of an easing on U.S. beef and pork im-

ports restrictions was welcomed by many of the country's friends on Capitol Hill, he added.

It is sincerely hoped the move will pave the way for substantive talks on a bilateral trade agreement, Wu said. It also augurs well for the launch of the economic and commercial dialogue with Keith Krach, undersecretary of state for economic growth, energy and the environment, he added.

Wu took the opportunity to thank U.S. for supporting the enhancement of Taiwan's defensive capabilities. Over the past four years, the administration of President Donald J. Trump greenlit seven arms sales packages to Taiwan totaling US\$13.2 billion, he said.

Going forward, Wu said, Taiwan will further develop and bolster its indigenous defense and asymmetrical warfare capabilities. The country remains firmly committed to working with the U.S. and other like-minded partners to defend Taiwan from China's manipulations and threats, he added.

GTI, established in 2016, is a think tank promoting greater understanding of Taiwan and its people in the U.S. through targeted policy research and engagement programs.

## MOFA thanks EU academics, lawmakers and political figures for op-ed supporting Taiwan

An op-ed urging more EU support for Taiwan published on media outlets in France and Germany by academics, lawmakers and political figures was deeply appreciated, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sept. 15.

Initiated by Nathalie Loiseau, chair of Subcommittee on Security and Defence under the European Parliament, the op-ed was co-written by MEPs including Petras Austrevicius, chair of Delegation for relations with Afghanistan; Radoslaw Sikorski, chair of Delegation for relations with the U.S.; Raphael Glucksmann, vice-chair of Subcommittee on Human Rights; Reinhard Butikofer, chair of Delegation for relations with China; and Elmar Brok, former chair of Committee on Foreign Affairs; as well as academics and political figures such as Francois Godement, senior advisor for Asia at Paris-

headquartered Institut Montaigne; Hanns Maull, senior associate fellow at Berlin-based Mercator Institute for China Studies; and Volker Stanzel, Germany's former ambassador to China.

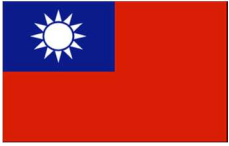
In the op-ed, signatories called for the EU to expand high-level dialogue with Taiwan and strengthen cooperation between the two sides in areas spanning public health, trade, regional security and supply chains. They additionally expressed support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations and endorsed greater exposure for programs produced by Taiwan media outlets on European TV networks.

Signatories emphasized the importance of boosting Taiwan-EU exchanges in the face of China's ongoing campaign of coercion as a means of maintaining peace

and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

According to the MOFA, the op-ed reflects the growing chorus across Europe advocating for closer relationships between Taiwan and EU member states following a statement released by 70 global legislators backing the Czech senate delegation's visit to Taiwan last month.

The MOFA said Taiwan will continue deepening ties with EU member states built on ongoing bilateral collaboration in fields like 5G networks, biological and medical technology and green economy, while sparing no effort to restructure supply chains of strategic industries and stabilize global political and economic sentiment in the post-pandemic era.



## Ketagalan Forum: 2020 Asia-Pacific Security Dialogue wraps up in Taipei

The Ketagalan Forum: 2020 Asia-Pacific Security Dialogue wrapped up Sept. 9 in Taipei City, spotlighting continued security cooperation between Taiwan and its like-minded partners in pursuit of regional peace, stability and prosperity, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Headlining the event was the keynote speech by ex-U.S. National Security Advisor H. R. McMaster, who said the U.S. and other friendly countries should help strengthen Taiwan's defense, media reach and presence on the world stage to counter China's influence.

Citing increased restrictions on press freedom in Hong Kong, McMaster said Taiwan is the ideal location to base future English-language news coverage of the region, adding local publications can play a key role in educating foreign audiences.

Another highlight was provided by renowned epidemiologist and former Vice President Chen Chien-jen, who shared Taiwan's experiences combating COVID-19 and discussed the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead post-pandemic. Democracy, transparency and solidarity have been key to Taiwan's successful epidemic response, he said.

Jointly organized by the MOFA and Taipei-headquartered think tank Institute for National Defense and Security Research, the two-day semivirtual forum was attended by around 200 top experts and officials from 13 countries and territories.

It featured five panel discussions focused on security across the Taiwan Strait, power rivalry in the South China Sea, global public health cooperation in the wake of COVID-19, challenges and prospects for the Comprehensive and Pro-



gressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership in a changing global economy, and post-pandemic economic security, respectively.

Attendees included MOFA Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu, member of the Japanese parliament's upper house Matsukawa Rui, Australian Member of Parliament Andrew Laming and Polish Academy of Science President Jerzy Duszynski, as well as ambassadors and representatives from the diplomatic corps in Taiwan.

## Taiwan, US, Japan, Guatemala stage 1st GCTF for Latin America, Caribbean



Taiwan, the U.S., Japan and host Guatemala successfully staged the first Global Cooperation and Training Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sept. 9.

The virtual event, which centered on coronavirus-combating efforts, good governance and post-pandemic recovery plans, is aimed at deepening friendship and collaboration among like-minded countries in tackling global issues and promoting inclusive prosperity. It involved more than 200 experts and officials from over 25 countries throughout the region.

Participants included MOFA Vice Minister Miguel Li-jei Tsao, Digital Minister Audrey Tang, U.S. Principal Deputy Assis-

tant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Julie Chung, American Institute in Taiwan Director Brent Cristensen, Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Chief Representative Hiroyasu Izumi and Guatemala Minister of Foreign Affairs Pedro Brolo.

Tsao said Taiwan is on the front lines of international pandemic management measures, and is working tirelessly to support related efforts of allies and friendly nations across Latin America and the Caribbean. The government is grateful for recognition of this contribution with support for the country's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization by partners such as the U.S., Japan and Canada, he added.

Chung, who praised Taiwan's contribution to advancing democracy and sustainable development across the region, said she was pleased to see the staging of the inaugural GCTF. The U.S. is committed to cooperating closely with Taiwan in bolstering its ties with friendly nations sharing the same values, she added.

Equally upbeat on the GCTF, Brolo said the event enables participants to share experiences in fighting COVID-19, learn from one another and face challenges to global health together. He expressed gratitude to all parties for backing Guate-

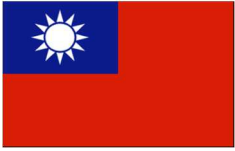
mala's co-hosting of the event.

The GCTF for Latin America and the Caribbean also comprises workshops on such topics as digital economy and infrastructure, fifth-generation technology, internet security and women's empowerment. A physical meeting is to be held in ally Guatemala later this year after travel restrictions caused by coronavirus, first reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, are lifted.

According to the MOFA, Latin America and the Caribbean is an important region for Taiwan as it is home to the majority country's allies. It is hoped other like-minded partners and friends will take part in the event going forward, as friendship transcends borders and geographic distances in cementing good relations, the ministry said.

GCTF, launched in 2015 by Taiwan and the U.S., aims to build capacity and strengthen multilateral cooperation among like-minded partners. Other participating countries include Australia, Japan—joining as a full partner in 2019, and Sweden.

A total of 25 workshops involving more than 600 experts and government officials from 39 countries have been staged to date.



## Former VP Chen talks Taiwan Model for combating coronavirus with CNN



Former Vice President Chen Chien-jen sat

down for an exclusive interview with Fareed Zakaria on CNN show GPS Sept. 13 via video link from Taipei City to expound on the Taiwan Model for combating coronavirus.

with confirmed cases have helped Taiwan stay on top of the pandemic.

Chen said that quarantining a total of 250,000 people to date has ensured the safety of Taiwan's 23 million citizens, who are able to continue life as usual instead of undergoing large-scale lockdowns. This has allowed the country to avoid the economic impact of shuttering local businesses, he added.

of communication along with failure of Chinese authorities to isolate mild cases in the city is a major reason the disease was able to become so widespread, he said.

An epidemiologist trained at Johns Hopkins University in the U.S., Chen also cautioned the international community not to let its guard down as coronavirus will continue impacting the world in the coming months.

Stringent contact tracing and tracking, rather than mass screening, has played a key role in Taiwan's efficient and effective management of COVID-19, Chen said, adding that measures such as 14-day mandatory quarantine for those who came in contact

According to Chen, who cited a paper published in U.S.-based New England Journal of Medicine, a large number of atypical pneumonia cases first found in the Chinese city of Wuhan late last year were not reported to the World Health Organization. Lack

Latest statistics from the Central Epidemic Command Center reveal 499 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Taiwan as of Sept. 14, with seven deaths. A total of 28,985,220 cases have been identified in 186 other countries and territories.

## IDIA lectures on Taiwan's response to COVID-19 wrap up in Taipei

A pair of lectures on Taiwan's experience combating COVID-19 and its cooperative efforts with international partners to curb the spread of the disease wrapped up Sept. 7 in Taipei City, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Organized by MOFA's Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, the lectures offered deeper insight into Taiwan's effective coronavirus response to more than 50 foreign diplomats stationed in Taiwan and their dependents enrolled in the institute's Mandarin Studies Program.

Tien Chung-kwang, MOFA deputy minister and IDIA chancellor, said during his opening remarks that Taiwan's low number of coronavirus cases can be attributed to the coun-

try's strong public-private partnership. Taiwan Can Help the international community better manage the pandemic through sharing its expertise and practices in disease prevention, he added.

Following Tien's comments were speeches delivered by Gu Ruey-sheng, director general of the Department of Policy Planning under the MOFA, and Dr. Huang Sung-en from the Centers for Disease Control under the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

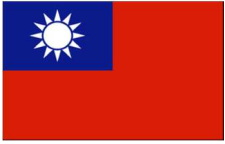
The former elucidated the details of Taiwan's collaboration with allies, like-minded partners and international organizations, including Palau, Paraguay, Russia, the Czech Republic, the U.S., the EU and the Central

American Integration System, while the latter centered on the government's swift action

starting Dec. 30 last year and the country's public health capabilities for dealing with epidemics like H1N1, H7N9, dengue fever, Zika and severe acute respiratory syndrome.

According to the MOFA, the event also provided an opportunity for participants to exchange opinions on border control measures and discuss developments in the global fight against the disease.





## Foreign Minister Wu calls for closer Taiwan-US trade ties

Taiwan is committed to forging a closer economic relationship with the U.S. through the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement, as the like-minded partners look for new ways to cooperate post-pandemic, Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said Sept. 10.



The decision to relax restrictions on U.S. beef and pork imports demonstrates the government's commitment to addressing outstanding issues and moving toward an agreement, Wu said. Not only is it a significant economic development, but it also sets an example for other countries throughout the Indo-Pacific, he added.

Wu made the remarks in a speech titled "Toward a Better, Stronger Economic Partnership between Taiwan and the U.S." delivered during a webinar hosted by U.S.-based think tank Atlanta Council on International Relations.

According to Wu, Taiwan plays a crucial role in global supply chains and has close ties with the U.S., as evidenced by increasing bilateral trade and investment between the two sides over the past three years.

While COVID-19 has brought much of the world's economy to a standstill, Wu said business continues as usual in Taiwan thanks to far-sighted government planning backed by the tireless efforts of the country's front-line health workers.

According to Wu, Taiwan's successful

epidemic response is built on its democratic and free society backed by the Taiwan Model, which has gained recognition from U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as a paradigm of openness and generosity.

It is hoped that the recently announced high-level economic and commercial dialogue to be led by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Keith Krach will solidify mutually beneficial ties between the two sides, Wu said.

Although 2020 has been a year of challenges, it has also opened up new opportunities, Wu said, adding the time is right to strengthen Taiwan-U.S. economic relations across the board through the signing of a trade agreement.

## Joint statement calling for BTA inked by Taiwan, US business associations

A joint statement calling for a Taiwan-U.S. bilateral trade agreement was inked by Taipei City-based Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce Sept. 9 in the capital, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs.



Witnessed by MOEA Minister Wang Mei-hua, the statement was signed by CNAIC Chairman Lin Por-fong and Amcham Chairman C.W. Chin.

The statement said Taiwan and the U.S. are key trading partners, with bilateral trade totaling nearly US\$43 billion in the first half of this year. The announcement to ease restrictions on U.S. beef and pork imports made by President Tsai Ing-wen last month has removed long-standing obstacles to entering BTA negotiations, it added.

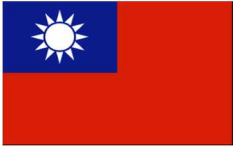
Rationale for a BTA has been strengthened by recent global developments such as U.S.-China trade frictions and the COVID-19 pandemic, the statement said, adding that concern about the security of supply chains has enhanced integration between Taiwan and U.S. enterprises, especially those in the fields of semiconductors and other advanced technologies.

BTA negotiations will additionally help facilitate Taiwan-U.S. trade and investment exchanges while furthering the two sides' common goal of promoting

peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, the statement said.

Echoing the statement's sentiment, Wang said during the signing ceremony that Taiwan has long been a reliable partner of the U.S. The two sides' rock-solid partnership is demonstrated by collaboration in areas spanning defense, trade and talent cultivation, as well as growing inbound investment by U.S. technology heavyweights like Amazon.com Inc. and Google on the back of the country's democratic values and commitment to protecting intellectual property rights.

Wang also welcomed plans for new bilateral economic dialogue announced Aug. 31 in remarks by David R. Stilwell, assistant secretary of Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs under the U.S. Department of State.



## MOFA unveils Taiwan's new passport design

The new front cover design for Taiwan's passport was unveiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a special press conference Sept. 2 in Taipei City, with the official launch date set for January 2021.

The design will help ensure the dignity and rights of Taiwan's citizens when travelling abroad, the MOFA said, adding that it will also mitigate inconvenience caused by other countries mistaking ROC (Taiwan) passports for those of China.

It follows a resolution passed by the Legislature in July requiring the government to make Taiwan more prominent on the passport, a move prompted by a desire to distinguish the country more

clearly from China following the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the MOFA, since the word "Taiwan" was added to the passport cover in 2003, the country's global visibility has been greatly enhanced, with citizens enjoying visa-free, landing visa or e-visa privileges in 170 countries and territories.

The new design retains the color and structure of the current version alongside most of the elements, including the official country name in Chinese and English, as well as the national emblem.

Major changes include enlarging the English font for Taiwan and placing it directly above the word



"passport" to clearly indicate holders' national identity. In addition, the country's official name in English is embedded three times in the outer circle of the national emblem for greater aesthetic appeal.

Passports using the current design will remain valid until their expiry dates, the ministry said, adding people can choose to apply for the new passport in advance.

## NIA announces 3rd 30-day extension of stay for foreign visitors

The National Immigration Agency under the Ministry of the Interior announced Sept. 14 a third automatic 30-day extension of stay for foreign visitors who have legally remained in Taiwan for 180 days or more.

According to the NIA, the extension applies to all foreigners who entered Taiwan on or before March 21 using a visitor or landing visa, or through a visa-waiver program. Previous extensions were announced July 17 and Aug. 14.

The move will help reduce any risks associated with the unnecessary movement of international travelers during the COVID-19

pandemic, the NIA said. Further extensions or policy changes will be decided at a later date in con-

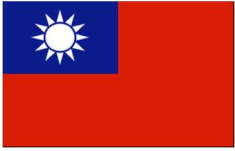


junction with the Central Epidemic Command Center based on the current situation at home and abroad, it added.

Following the March declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization, governments

around the world have tightened border controls and imposed flight bans as part of efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, leaving many travelers unable to easily return home.

Given these restrictions, the Bureau of Consular Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced five automatic 30-day extensions of stay for foreign nationals who entered Taiwan on or before March 21, providing visitors with an additional 150 days in the country. Responsibility for the extensions then transferred to the NIA for those remaining past the maximum permitted 180-day stay.



## Taipei gets top marks in education in latest EIU livability survey

Taiwan's Taipei City bagged a perfect score of 100 in the education category of the 2020 livability survey by London-based Economist Intelligence Unit, according to the Department of Education under Taipei City Government Sept. 5.

Excelling in indicators including availability and quality of education, Taipei ranks on par with global metropolises London, New York, Paris and Sydney, as well as neighboring cities Seoul, Singapore and Tokyo, while beating out Beijing, 83.3, and Shanghai, 75.



According to city officials, the top marks can be attributed to the department's tireless efforts to promote bilingual, experimental, international and smart education. To this end, Taipei has established seven experimental and 89 bilingual public elementary and junior high schools to date, with plans to establish six-year experimental public high schools also in the works.

With support from the department, high schools citywide offer a range of international programs including those issuing dual diplomas from Taiwan and abroad, officials said, adding that students can also opt to study overseas during summer and winter breaks through the International Foundation Studies initiative.

Demonstrating its commitment to

fostering a state-of-the-art learning environment, the local government has earmarked NT\$1.6 billion (US\$50 million) since 2018 for establishing digital learning platforms and enhancing smart teaching methods and campus facilities, officials said.

Local authorities will continue promoting information and communication technology in the classroom while bolstering innovative developments in the field of education to enhance the city's global competitiveness, the department said.

The EIU assesses living conditions in 140 cities worldwide in its annual livability survey, scoring each location based on 30 indicators spanning the categories of culture and environment, education, healthcare, infrastructure and stability.

## MOFA welcomes Japan's decision to lift travel restrictions for Taiwan business travelers

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sept. 1 welcomed the decision by the Japan government earlier the same day to lift travel restrictions for business visitors from Taiwan in a move set to take effect by the end of September.

According to the MOFA, Taiwan residents with upcoming business trips to Japan should present a job offer or invitation at the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association to



apply for a visa.

Proof of a negative pol-

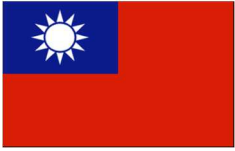
ymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19 within 72 hours before departure is required, the ministry said, adding that travelers will be tested again upon arrival before undergoing a 14-day quarantine period at home or a designated facility.

The MOFA said the easing of restrictions by Japan demonstrates its recognition of Taiwan's effective coronavirus response measures, adding that the step will also help bolster the two sides' business ties.

Taiwan and Japan have a close relationship reflected by mutual support and relief during natural disasters such as the Sept. 21, 1999

earthquake in Taiwan and the tremor devastating eastern Japan March 11, 2011, the MOFA said. Longstanding cooperation has continued during the coronavirus pandemic, with the two countries working closely to control the outbreak on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship and arrange charter flights repatriating nationals from Fiji, India, Peru and Russia, the ministry added.

The government will continue promoting economic and trade exchanges with Japan while deepening collaborative efforts to combat COVID-19 in the region, according to the MOFA.



## MOFA short spotlights Taiwan’s coronavirus-combating capabilities, need for UN system participation

A short film spotlighting Taiwan’s coronavirus-combating capabilities and need for participation in the U.N. system was released Sept. 11 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Blessings from Taiwan,” running for 2 minutes and 33 seconds, draws the curtains back on the efforts of everyday people on the front lines as they strengthen the country’s domestic and international response to COVID-19. The emotive and informative short shows how Taiwan Can Help boost pandemic management measures while achieving U.N. Sustainable Development Goals like SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Published on the MOFA-affiliated Trending Taiwan Facebook, Twitter and



YouTube platforms, the film also features on the ministry’s official FB and Instagram social media pages. In addition it was tweeted by President Tsai Ing-wen via her official Twitter account.

In a tweet on the MOFA’s official Twitter page, the ministry said “Blessings from Taiwan” shows the merits of an #AllHandsOnDeck approach to combating #Coronavirus. This philosophy is in the hearts of the country’s 23 million people. #Taiwan’s

@UN system inclusion will save lives & speed progress on realizing the #SDGs. Yes! #TaiwanCanHelp”

According to the MOFA, the short underscores the value of global cooperation, trust and unity in the fight against COVID-19. It also demonstrates that Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the activities, meetings and mechanisms of U.N. specialized agencies can deliver wide-ranging benefits and build better tomorrows for the people, the ministry said.

The film, which has been well-received to date, is available with subtitles in Chinese, English, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.

## Winners of Trending Taiwan Short Film Competition awarded by MOFA

Winners of the Trending Taiwan Short Film Competition, an annual competition organized by the Department of International Information Services under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were awarded at a ceremony Sept. 9 in Taipei City.

The sixth edition of the event, which seeks to showcase Taiwan’s distinctive qualities, saw 12 three-minute submissions selected from a 225-strong field falling under one of two categories: open and pandemic prevention.

The former category highlights films capturing inspiring moments or telling unique stories while the latter, newly added this year and featuring subcategories for local and foreign entrants, underscores Taiwan’s effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Total prize money amounted to NT\$830,000 (US\$28,350).

In the open category, “Taiwan—Where I want to be” by French director Florian

Payrou took the top honor. The short portrays extraordinary features of the people and landscape by way of illustrating the country’s allure for the filmmaker.

“Taiwan Pride for the World” by Larry Tung and Hugo Chung claimed the first place among pandemic prevention’s local entries for emphasizing Taiwan’s singular ability to celebrate LGBT Pride on the strength of its success combating coronavirus, while “No More Fears, Here in Taiwan” by Rio Ananta Perangin-Angin, an Indonesian student studying at National Cheng Kung University in southern Taiwan’s Tainan City, won in the foreign grouping for utilizing first-person perspective to demonstrate Taiwan’s COVID-19 response measures.

Presiding over the ceremony, MOFA Deputy Minister Harry Ho-Jen Tseng said the competition serves as a platform for spotlighting the country’s celluloid creativity while raising global



awareness of Taiwan and its remarkable culture.

According to the MOFA, the awarded works will be subtitled in a variety of foreign languages for broadcast on the ministry’s Trending Taiwan Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts.

First launched in 2015, the Trending Taiwan Short Film Competition has attracted more than 600 submissions to date from nationals of countries around the world, including France, India, Malaysia and Switzerland. This year’s entries were assessed by a five-member panel using the criteria of narrative technique, script creativity, technical proficiency and theme appeal.